

world against tyranny and aggression. This includes sending forth brave men and women to protect the sovereignty that we hold dear. One of these brave souls has been wounded in battle, and his courageous actions and determination deserve the admiration of this body of Congress and of this nation.

Jordan Ferrell, a 19-year-old soldier from Moffat County, Colorado was wounded in the service of his country during Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a member of the Army's 82nd Airborne, Jordan was wounded by shrapnel when a grenade exploded on the roof of his Jeep. After being injured, Jordan wanted nothing more than to return to active duty, so he began the long road to recovery. I am proud to say that through hard work and determination, Jordan has resumed active duty, and is once again protecting the freedoms we enjoy.

Upon completion of his military service, Jordan wants to pursue a career in computers. His mother hopes he might consider creative writing. Regardless of the profession he chooses, if Jordan displays the same determination and drive, I know he will achieve much success in his life.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express my deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice and heroism of this soldier and his family. Jordan has served his country well, and it is soldiers like him who make the United States military the best in the world. Jordan has done all Americans proud and I know he has the respect, admiration, and gratitude of all of my colleagues here today. Thank you, Jordan, for your honorable and admirable service to this nation.

TRIBUTE TO JULIANA BELLINGER OF GRAND RAPIDS, MI, EXCEPTIONAL TEACHER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, education is the key for our Nation's future prosperity and security. The formidable responsibility of molding and inspiring young minds to the avenues of hope, opportunity and achievement rests partly in the hands of our teachers. Today I would like to recognize a teacher from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mrs. Juliana Bellinger teaches Theatre Arts and Literature at Forest Hills Northern and Central High Schools. She is credited for building ensembles and unity within classrooms and within casts. She is one of the most loved teachers on staff as evidenced by senior classes choosing her as their main speaker at Baccalaureate. Student enrollment in her classes increased every year in every school where she taught, further evidence of her skill and knowledge of her subjects.

Her commitment to professionalism is well-known by students and faculty alike. She is described as loving, committed, dynamic, exceptional, inspiring, insightful, and extraordinary. One colleague writes, "To watch her present and teach is truly a wonderful experience." In over twenty years of teaching she has directed numerous plays, coached young actors, and educated others on new technologies for the drama classroom. As a well-respected educator she has been invited to

teach teachers at seminars and conferences on techniques and skills to increase student interest and performance in literature.

Mrs. Bellinger's excellence in teaching both challenges and inspires students to move beyond the teen-age tendency toward surface study and encourage deeper thought and connections to the real world. No profession is more important in its influence and daily interaction with the future leaders of our community and our country, and Juliana Bellinger's impact on her students is certainly deserving of recognition.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to extend our highest praise to Mrs. Juliana Bellinger as a master teacher. We thank her for her continuing dedication to teaching and her willingness and ability to challenge and inspire students.

RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1308. TAX RELIEF, SIMPLIFICATION, AND EQUITY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker. I cannot say that I'm surprised by the actions of the Majority today. I cannot say that I'm surprised that instead of voting on the Senate-passed Child Tax Credit legislation, we're voting on something else. I cannot say that I'm surprised that once again, the GOP leadership is cynically manipulating the process to ensure that we pass even more tax cuts that will drive up the federal deficit and continue to expand our national debt. Once again, they're playing politics when what we need is tax relief for working families.

Let's review what we're talking about here. First, the President tried to convince us that the tax bill would help every working American. Sadly, though, the House Leadership gutted one of the few provisions that helped those most in need—the refundable Child Tax Credit—from the previous tax package at the last minute. Yes, in a bill that was supposed to be an effort to stimulate the economy, we didn't do anything for those taxpayers most likely to spend the money. Amazingly, workers who earn between \$10,500 and \$26,625 were left behind in a backroom deal. I cannot think of anyone who is more likely to spend that money than these working families struggling to make ends meet. What this sneaky deal means to New Mexico is that nearly 90,000 families and 157,000 children aren't going to benefit under current law. The Republican plan also left behind many in our military, who would have benefited from this break.

Once the secret was out, though, the outcry from across the country was clear. Nearly everyone realized how bad a deal this really was, and nearly everyone knew a quick fix was needed. However, it seems like the House Leadership are the only ones in the country who don't get it. The Senate voted nearly unanimously to pass a simple clean bill to give this benefit to the most needy. And, most importantly, the Senate bill won't increase the national debt by one penny. It's to-

tally paid for. Even President Bush realizes how unfair this situation is, and has called on the House to pass a clean bill and let him sign it.

Not surprisingly, though, the House Leadership insists on passing a bill that cannot make it through the other chamber. The saddest part of this entire charade is that this bill—just like all the tax cuts this House has passed—will actually hurt American children much more than it helps them. In the long run, this \$82 billion tax-cut plan will further saddle our children and grandchildren with even more debt. So, we're giving them a small check now, but it pales in comparison to the huge bill they're going to see later in life. It's not only unfair; it's irresponsible.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill. I urge my colleagues to demand that we vote on the Senate-passed bill immediately. We shouldn't delay another minute. It's too important to play these cynical political games.

RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN PIFER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephen Pifer of Edwardsville, Illinois for winning the Triple Crown in Illinois high school long distance track.

Last November, Stephen won the Class AA cross-country championship for the State of Illinois. Then, at the 109th annual Illinois High School Association track and field State finals held in May, Stephen won the Class AA 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter runs to secure the Triple Crown. Winds gusting up to 30 miles per hour made stable running tricky for all competitors at the State finals, but Stephen's determination and spirit kept him head and shoulders above the rest of the field at Eastern Illinois University's O'Brien Stadium that night.

Just five other runners in State history have won the Triple Crown. Stephen joins names like Craig Virgin, David Merrick, Tom Graves, John Jacobsen, and Donald Sage; each Illinois track stars in their own right. Stephen's uncle and Edwardsville assistant coach Tim Flamer praised his nephew saying, "It's admirable for Stephen to come through time and time again. He's now among the legends of State track. He carved that out today." Three-time Olympian and two-time World Cross Country champion Craig Virgin calls Stephen the best runner to come out of Illinois since him, and not many disagree.

The mayor of Edwardsville has given Stephen the key to the city, but that will definitely not be the last of the awards he receives. Stephen has represented Southern Illinois well in his years at Edwardsville High School, but his time there is over as he graduated last May. He plans to move on to the University of Colorado, where he will undoubtedly continue performing well in competition. Stephen's future looks incredibly bright, and I wish him the best in all he does.